(b) No time limit has been fixed in the guidelines issued for this purpose for convening the meeting of the Costing Committee. This is held periodically on the basis of the proposals in hand, programme requirements of Doordarshan and availability of funds for commissioning of the programmes.

(c) During this period, the Costing Committee held six meetings.

[English]

Internet Service

2450. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some leading telecom companies have applied to the DOT to become Internet Service Providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to float tenders for Internet Service Providers licences;

(d) if so, the time by which these tenders are likely to be floated;

(e) the criteria fixed for issuing licences to Internet Services Providers (ISP); and

(f) the extent to which these ISPs are likely to be helpful in providing better telecom services in India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) A policy decision has been taken by the Telecom Commission to allow Indian Registered Companies to provide Internet Service in the country as 'Internet Service Providers'. The modalities and Terms and Conditions for this are being worked out. Thereafter, proposals shall be invited for award of licences for 'Internet Services'.

(f) It is excepted that participation by licensed ISPs will generate healthy competition in the field of Internet Services which will help the ultimate customer to get better service. This will also result in faster growth of this service all over the country.

[Translation]

Supply of Limestone

2451. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Raw Material Division of SAIL has fixed a target of supplying 2,44,000 tonnes of limestone annually to Bokaro Steel Plant from Lime Stone Mines located at Bhavnathpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for supplying 10,000 tonnes limestone per month to Bokaro Steel Plant;

(c) the reasons for puchasing substandard limestone from open market on higher rate by Bokaro Steel Plant;

(d) whether short intake of raw material from Bhavnathpur Lime Stone Mines is not likely to have adverse impact on the mines with which the livelihood of about fifty thousand people is linked directly or indirectly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

2452. DR. BALI RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees of different branches of Post Offices in Meerut (U.P) expired in 1995 while in service,

(b) whether the dependents of the deceased employees belonging to general category have been given jobs on compassionate ground whereas Scheduled Castes emplyees have not been given job till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the dependents of the deceased Scheduled Castes employees is likely to be given job?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) While admitting the position, it is clarified that the caste to which the deceased employee belonged in no way determined granting of employment to his dependent which is governed by the rules framed in this behalf by the Department of Personnel, the nodal department concerned with the subject.

(c) The case for giving compassionate appointments to one of the dependents of the deceased employee who belonged to the Scheduled Caste community was duly considered as per the prescribed procedure and was rejected twice by the Chief PMG, UP Circle, Lucknow under proper intimation to the family of the deceased that their family circumstances were not found to be indigent.

(d) The representation of the widow of the deceased employee against rejection of the case for appointment on compassionate grounds is under examination at the appropriate level and will be decided shortly.